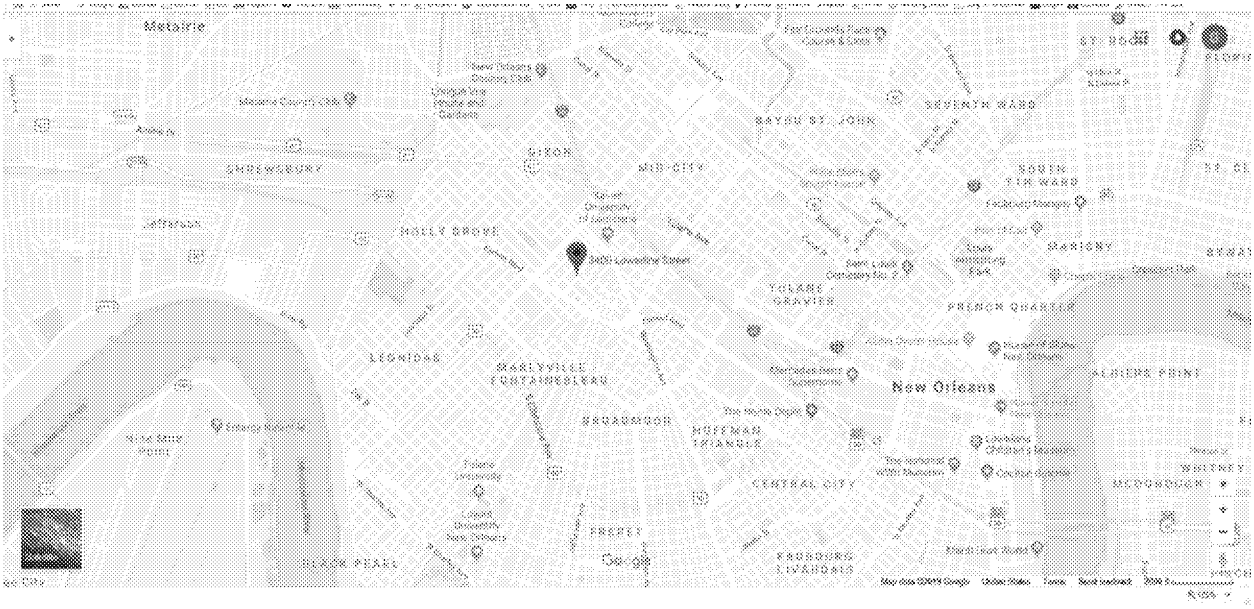
Lowerline
New Orleans, LA.

Background: Department of Energy (DOE) was conducting a survey of the area centered on the Superdome prior to an event held there. They identified a hot spot of radiation on Lowerline Street, in the Gert Town portion of New Orleans.



DOE notified the City of New Orleans. The radioactivity was above the action level for gamma radiation. The City then took action by hiring a contractor to excavate a 3'x3' portion of Lowerline Street. The contractor found radium contaminated soil under two layers of asphalt paving and one shell paving. That suggestes that the radium got there in the 1940s or 1950s.

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After that work was complete, the Radium contamination was above the action level along LowerLine Street. Subsequent investigation by the City's contractor produced a recommendation to do additional excavation of three distinct areas of 20'x40', 20'x10' and 5'x5'.

Ongoing Actions:

DOE was involved in the original identification of the hot spot and then notified the City of New Orleans. Their future involvement is not anticipated. DOE can only take action if they source is a DOE source.

City of New Orleans is seeking money to do the recommended action. The bid from their contractor is over $500,000. That figure is in the ballpark if the situation is accurate.

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has told the City to contact EPA. A conversation between LDEQ and EPA has not been initiated.

Although there has been talk about PRPs and how the radium got there, it seems to be all speculation and conjecture. So no PRPs have been identified and no evidence that would lead to a PRP.

EPA Action: Pending a decision by LDEQ to not conduct the action:

- Use EPA's Montgomery Radiation Lab and START contractor to review and verify information and data acquired by the City's contractor.
- Identify data gaps in that information.
- Conduct additional investigation at the Site to fill the data gaps. Including surface scans, potentially probes, confirm extent of contamination, etc..
- Excavate the areas identified. Remove the clean overburden, i.e. paving. Isolate and excavate contaminated material.
- Dispose at facility licensed for radioactive material, probably Energy Solutions.